Library & Public Information Services

Mission

To provide information resources to Indiana citizens.

Summary of Activities

The Indiana State Library was established in 1825, and was charged with providing library services to Indiana's government and citizens. It also provides specialized services not available at local libraries, and strengthens and supports the library profession. The State Library has a reference division that serves as a repository for all federal and state documents, a loan division that includes the only general circulation Braille library in the state, and an Indiana division, which includes a large section devoted to genealogical research. Indiana contains 239 public libraries, 380 school corporation media centers, 194 special libraries, and 76 academic libraries.

The State Library also facilitates electronic access to information. It administers the INSPIRE program, Indiana's "virtual library". In conjunction with the academic, public, school and special libraries of Indiana, INSPIRE offers access to a full range of commercial databases and other electronic resources to support the educational, cultural, personal and economic interests of Hoosiers from their homes, offices, libraries, schools and businesses in Indiana.

The Commission on Public Records manages the birth-to-death life cycle of all government records, preserving and making accessible the most valuable legal and historical records in the State Archives. The Commission provides advice, guidance, and retention schedules regarding public records for all local and county governments. It maintains a public records



Map of Indiana by A. von Steinwehr, A. M. H. Chandler, Engraver. 1876

center that provides state agencies with off-site storage for inactive records.

The Public Access Counselor provides advice, assistance, opinions and training on the state's public access to records and meeting laws.

The Access Indiana Information Network (AIIN) is an Internet-based interactive communication and transaction system designed to make communication of information quicker and more convenient for residents and businesses throughout Indiana. The AIIN web site provides links to local governments, business and professional resources, associations, and other public information. Currently there are approximately 100,000 pages of content covering more than 75 state agencies, departments, and commissions, the judiciary system of Indiana, and the legislative branch, including elected officials and the Indiana Code and Administrative Code. AAIN uses the most successful network model in the country - no state or federal tax money is used to develop electronic access to information. 90% of all information available on the Network is available to the public at no cost. The remaining content is public information deemed "commercially valuable" such as Driver's Records, Vehicle Titles and Liens, Secretary of State Records, and Health Professionals' Licenses. For an annual subscription fee and a modest per transaction charge, users can immediately access the most up-to-date state agency information available. Fees generated from commercially valuable information support the development of the Network's free content.

External Factors

A significant external factor affecting library and public information services is the growing demand for legal records and information, and the increasing number of commercial databases that contain information needed for business and government to carry out planning and decision making. The cost to make these services available continues to rise each year along with the demand. Authentication issues related to new electronic record formats will also need to be addressed. In addition, a federal mandate to convert all television broadcasting to a digital format has resulted in a need for significant investments in new equipment at Indiana's public television stations.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

- ♦ With over 5 million electronic accesses, the State Library doubled use of all electronic resources from 1996-1997 to 1999-2000.
- ♦ Commission on Public Records services to patrons of the State Archives increased over 100% in the 1990's, excluding the 2.5 million website accesses. The cubic feet of legal records in its custody and care also increased over 100%.
- accessing and The Official Web Site of the State of Indiana
- AIIN provided the public with access to free applications, including a searchable database of licensed child care providers, state college grant and scholarship information, state emergency management information, a searchable version of the Indiana Code, Department of Natural Resources water quality databases, and a sex offender registry. New information is continually being added. AAIN receives over 5 million web "hits" per month.
- ♦ Last year the Public Access Counselor office received more than 1,600 contacts, issued 42 written advisory opinions, and conducted 68 educational and training presentations.

Plans for the Biennium

The Commission on Public Records will move the State Archives to improve storage conditions and extend the useful life of valuable, one-of-a-kind legal public records; create new retention schedules and procedures for handling electronic records to insure authenticity; increase online access to public records by 100%; expand service hours for archives patrons; decrease expenditures by state agencies for off- site storage of data and records with the opening of a new vault; and digitize records in the archives.

The State Library will restore and remodel all its current space except the book stacks; expand into the 45,000 additional square feet created by the relocation of the Indiana Historical Society; improve customer service by combining research information resources and making additional resources available two evenings and Saturdays; and develop a supplementary on-line catalog. Indiana's public television stations will complete the conversion of their broadcast facilities so that they may broadcast a digital signal, as required by federal law.

